

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for washing produce comprising the steps of:

providing a washing section having a washing unit disposed thereon so as to position spray nozzles above said washing section; providing a conveyor belt apparatus located on said washing section and adapted to transport produce through said washing unit from an entry point of said washing section to a terminating point of said washing section;

wherein said conveyor belt apparatus further comprises produce receiving baskets adapted to receive said produce and to expose a top portion of said produce to spray emanating from said spray nozzles located above said washing section;

wherein said produce receiving baskets comprises an upper ring that is dimensioned to receive a single item of said produce therein and that is open at an upper portion thereof to permit said single item of said produce to be placed therein, a base ring having a smaller diameter than said upper ring and that is open at a lower portion thereof and support members projecting from said base ring to said upper ring;

harvesting produce from a field;

placing said produce in said produce receiving baskets;

passing said produce receiving baskets with said produce therein through said washing unit; and

exposing said top portion of said produce to spray emanating from said spray nozzles located above said washing section;

wherein said produce is lettuce.

2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

providing a loading section pivotally coupled to said washing section at said entry point of said washing section;

providing a conveyor belt apparatus located on said loading section and adapted to transport produce along said loading section from an entry point of said loading section to a terminating point of said loading section and from there to said entry point of said washing section;

loading said produce on said conveyor belt apparatus on said loading section; and

transporting said produce along said loading section to said washing section.

3. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

providing an upward angled ascending section positioned at said terminating point of said washing section, after said washing unit;

providing a conveyor belt apparatus located on said ascending section and adapted to transport produce along said ascending section from an entry point of said ascending section to a terminating point of said ascending section; and

transporting said produce upward along said ascending section.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein said conveyor belt apparatus located on said ascending section further comprises a plurality of steps located thereon and dimensioned to prevent said produce from falling backward as it travels upward along said ascending section.

5. The method of Claim 3 further comprising the steps of:
providing a downward angled dumping section positioned at said terminating point of said upward angled ascending section;
providing a conveyor belt apparatus located on said dumping section and adapted to transport produce along said dumping section from said terminating point of said ascending section to a terminating point of said dumping section;
transporting said produce along said dumping section to a terminating point of said dumping section; and
dumping said produce from said terminating point of said dumping section into a receptacle.

6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a trailer coupled to said washing section.